

Station Marines prepare for the fight

MCMAP sustainment courses now offered twice a week for Marines

... page 3



Pre-season flag football off to smashing start

MALS-13 and PMO victorious, offer stiff competition to station teams

... page 8



YUMA WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday: Clear; high: 107, low: 83
Saturday: Mostly clear; high: 105, low: 83
Sunday: Mostly clear; high: 107, low: 85



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Installation of excellence

DESSERT WARRIOR

Volume 5, Number 33

www.yuma.usmc.mil

August 24, 2006

At long last ...



Photo by Pfc. Timothy M. Stewman

Cpl. Casey Kern Marine Attack Squadron 214 holds his 7 month old son Jasper next to wife, Carman on Aug. 15. Kern and his fellow Marines returned from a six-month deployment with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

MACS-1 Marines return home to family, friends

Pfc. M. Daniel Sanchez
MCAS Yuma

Several dozen Marine Air Control Squadron 1 Marines returned to the loving smiles and embraces of family and friends at the Sonoran Pueblo here Aug. 16.

The 36 Marines and sailors returned home after a seven-month tour in Al Asad, Iraq, in support of the MACS-1 units operating in Iraq.

The Marines performed duties similar to what they would in Yuma, monitoring air space, ensuring the safety of aerial operations and providing mechanical and logistical support, except on a larger scale, said Capt. James Hale, MACS-1 headquarters detachment company commanding officer. There were times when the Marines took on twice their

normal responsibilities.

There were some slow days when the Marines could catch their breath, but it seemed every slow day was followed by two or three extremely busy ones, said Hale.

But the Marines were able to adapt quickly to a new environment and still get the job done each day, he said.

“It was incredible to see a group of corporals and sergeants take on the billets of staff sergeants and gunnery sergeants and excel,” said Hale, a native of Laredo, Texas.

Because of their outstanding work, several Marines were nominated to receive Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, said Hale.

It just goes to show the level of professionalism and excellence MACS-1 can depend on

see **RETURN** page 4



Photo by Pfc. M. Daniel Sanchez

Maj. Darry Grossnickle, officer-in-charge of Marine Air Control Squadron 1 (forward), spends time with his new baby son, Zachary, at the Sonoran Pueblo after returning home to Yuma on Aug. 16 from a seven-month deployment to Al Asad, Iraq. Grossnickle's son was born three weeks prior to his return.

Welcome home VMA-214

Pfc. Timothy M. Stewman
MCAS Yuma

Friends, family and fellow Marines welcomed home the nearly 80 warriors from Marine Attack Squadron 214 who returned from a six-month deployment with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit on Aug. 15 outside the VMA-214 hangar.

A hangar full of smiling friends and family members sprang to their feet after Lt. Col. Sean C. Blochberger, squadron commanding officer, dismissed his Marines for liberty.

“I’m so excited that Jacob is back,” said Tracey Boback, wife of Cpl. Jacob Boback. “This was his third deployment, so I’d like to say I’m getting better at it. I’m just glad he’s home now and is able to see his new son.”

Boback got to see his 4 month old son Gavin, who was born while he was deployed.

Family members and friends had arrived hours early, so everyone was waiting nervous and anxious, said Shelley Ticen, wife of Cpl. Christopher Ticen.

“I’m just glad to be home,” said Ticen, VMA-214 powerline technician.

The six VMA-214 pilots that returned to station flying their AV-8B Harriers on Aug. 14 were also there to welcome home their Marines.

Marines from all the shops of VMA-214 were deployed with the 11th MEU, said Blochberger.

“Our Marines were a representation of all the shops you

see **VMA-214** page 4

Station Marines warned against predatory lenders

Cpl. Natasha S. Rawls
MCAS Yuma

The Department of Defense report on predatory lending practices for service members and their families was recently released to provide information to leadership.

Predatory lenders are establishments that charge outrageous fees to consumers such as; cash advance, pay-day loans, rent-to-own, title loans, etc. These lenders make money by victimizing others for personal gain, said Margy Pracchia, station financial advisor.

These lenders open businesses near military installations to target service members because they have steady incomes, and if necessary, the lenders can contact the service members’ command to ensure repayment.

“Predatory lenders are utilized because they provide you instant cash,” said Pracchia. “As long as you have a checking account, you are approved. The problem with these establishments is that they (make it) easy to fall into a debt trap, which can take several weeks to get out from under, if you can.”

The pay-day loans offer you a loan as long as you write them a check for the amount of the loan, plus an additional service fee. This service fee can range from \$15 to \$30 per \$100, said Pracchia.

To prevent service members from falling victim to these lenders, leaders can make it mandatory that all Marines and sailors arriving on station attend the financial training workshop. During the monthly workshop the counselor discusses predatory lending in detail, said Pracchia.

For those service members and families that have already used a pay-day loan and need financial help, they are encouraged to contact the financial counselor for assistance with creating a budget or negotiating repayment of debt. The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society is also available to possibly offer a no-interest loan to repay a pay-day loan, said Pracchia.

The relief society stands ready to make every attempt to assist service members caught up in the pay-day lender trap, said Lora O’Hara, NMCRS director. “We have successfully assisted a few clients in

see **LENDERS** page 4

Ready for inspection: Messhall goes for 4th award

Pfc. Timothy M. Stewman
MCAS Yuma

As 9 a.m. drew near, Marines and civilian workers frantically rushed to perfect every small detail of Mess Hall 710, ensuring that it is ready for inspection.

Marines and civilian workers experienced a preliminary inspection of the station mess hall Aug. 16 to determine if it was qualified to battle against other

corps mess halls for The Commandant’s Maj. Gen. W.P.T. Hill Award.

A team of five inspectors -- comprised of senior enlisted and Marine officers in food service from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, evaluated the overall performance in 11 categories, said Master Sgt. Lora Hall, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron food technician.

The categories are: management, food preparation, sanitation, serving techniques, food acceptability, effectiveness of training, conservation measures, equip-

ment, personal hygiene, receiving and storage procedures and implementation of the Facility Improvement Program, said Maj. James McCoy, mess hall inspector and director of regional food services from Marine Corps Installations West.

The inspectors observed the performance of the mess hall for four to six hours, said Master Gunnery Sgt. Manuel Oquendo, MCI West mess hall inspector.

“We want to be there long enough to see how they set up and if they use the

correct recipes,” said Oquendo. “We like to stay for at least one meal to get a good idea of how the mess hall performs.”

The winner is determined using a numbered scoring system, with 260 points being a perfect score, said McCoy. The inspectors don’t tell the winning mess hall its score if advancing instead, the mess hall is just told it’ll be the one representing MCI West.

The W.P.T. Hill Award is given to the

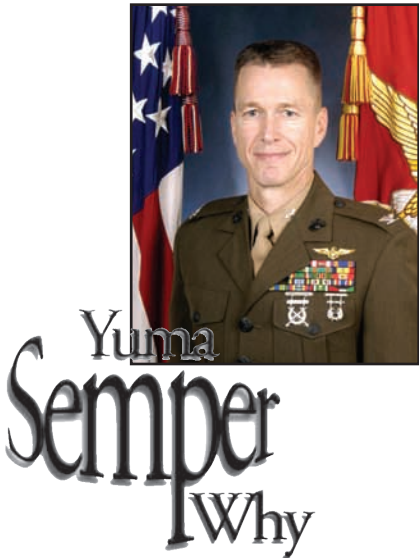
see **MESSHALL** page 4



Photo by Pfc. Timothy M. Stewman

Master Gunnery Sgt. Manuel Oquendo and Capt. Patrick Grosso, Marine Corps Installations West mess hall inspectors, look over the station mess hall and discuss the amount of points to be given during the first phase of inspections conducted Aug. 16.

OPINION



2: Construction is a good thing. It's usually a sign of progress and improvement. As we drive in and out of the main gate every day, we are all aware of the construction of "security upgrades."

I've read that a massive pop-up barrier is to be installed at the main gate. This improvement makes perfect sense; it adds security at the main entrance to the installation. However, am I the only Marine who wonders what is being "protected" by the newly installed "cable" barrier system that surrounds the parade

deck? I admit it is a bit more attractive than the large concrete blocks that have been sitting there, but I don't see what it's protecting. I have yet to see the value of the upgrade.

I also wonder about the heavy-looking system that's been installed at the front entrance to the Law Center/Public Affairs Office. There are many other areas of this installation where barrier systems would make more sense (ammo storage, MAWTS buildings, etc) But the Law Center/PAO was first on the list for security measures? This project had to have a pretty hefty price tag. Was this the best we could do?

A: The construction you see at the main gate is part of an integrated security upgrade designed to protect the Marines, sailors, civilians and family members who live and work onboard the installation. When it is completed, the upgrade will consist of a vehicle "pop-up" barrier system installed on both the inbound and outbound lanes, located several hundred meters west of the main gate (the outbound lane installation is designed to protect against a vehicle "reverse entry"

onto the base). These barriers are designed to stop vehicles and can be activated by the military police manning the gate.

However, in order to completely stop a vehicle, more than just a pop-up system is required. Otherwise, the driver of a vehicle wishing to cause harm to the installation could simply drive onto the sidewalk or parade deck in order to bypass the barrier. To preclude this from happening, we are installing the cable barrier system you mentioned. With this combination, a driver will essentially be trapped in the inbound/outbound lane, with no possibility of driving around the barrier.

The barrier system located at the entrance to the PAO/Law Center parking lot is intended to serve the same purpose as the cable barrier system. It is a "drop-arm" styled system, designed to operate in the open or closed position. In order to be effective, it will almost always be in the closed position. However, there may be times when we want to have the ability to gain access to the parking lot via the inbound lane (for instance, in order to conduct large scale vehicle inspections). During

those instances, the drop arm will be in the open position. When access to the parking lot is no longer required, the drop arm will be returned to the closed position.

As a reminder, the best security system we have is an alert individual. If you observe something that does not look or "feel" right, ensure the proper individuals are notified. In an emergency, dial 911. Otherwise, contact the Installation Security Department at 269-6750 or the Provost Marshals Office at 269-2204/2205 or the Naval Criminal Investigative Service at 269-2305.

Yuma Semper Why allows Marines and civilian employees to pose questions or bring up concerns to the commanding officer without fear of reprisal and allows the CO a means to address various issues directly. Though the chain of command is the preferred method for addressing concerns, Yuma Semper Why provides another option for station personnel to direct questions to the CO that the chain of command cannot adequately address.

'Flags of our Fathers'

A story of the lives behind the famous photo

Cpl. Natasha S. Rawls
MCAS Yuma

More than 20,000 American men were called to serve their country after the attack on Pearl Harbor and died on the shores of Iwo Jima in one of World War II's bloodiest battles. As Marines, we are taught to remember those fallen as they are an important part of our history.

The book, "Flags of Our Fathers" by James Bradley, takes an in-depth look at the lives of the five Marines and one Navy corpsman whose images were captured raising the American flag atop Mount Suribachi.

The image remains one of the most familiar from World War II. It was captured by the recently deceased Joe Rosenthal, an Associated Press photographer, who was later awarded a Pulitzer prize for the photograph.

While most can remember the photo, many don't know the story of those captured in it. "Flags of Our Fathers" follows the story of the men behind the image, from their childhoods until their deaths.

"It froze them in an elegant instant of battle: froze them in a camera lens as they hoisted an American flag on a makeshift pole. Their collective image, blurred and indistinct yet unforgettable, became the most recognized, the most reproduced, in the history of photography," said the book.

Bradley, the son of the sailor in the photo, wrote the book as a testament to the history and bravery of the men. He wanted to ensure that not only was the photo immortalized, but the

men behind the photo were also remembered.

The six American service members were each from different parts of the country and had completely different walks of life leading them to Suribachi that day.

The author's father, John Bradley, grew up in Appleton, Wis., as a middle class WWI veterans' son. Bradley grew up "always eager to serve," and at age 19 he was given the opportunity to serve his country.

"When John was 19 he knew he was about to be drafted, so he devised a plan to enlist in the Navy and avoid land battle ... (which) would allow him to be of service but to stay far away from the bullets. Little did he realize it would lead him directly to one of history's bloodiest battles," said the book.

Franklin Sousley grew up in a tobacco-farming family in Hilltop, Ken., and at the age of 18 he enlisted into the Marine Corps.

For Harlon Block, his childhood as a Seventh Day Adventist in Rio Grande Valley, Texas, made it more difficult for him to decide to enlist in the Marine Corps because of his strict religious teachings opposing war and killing, but he was committed to serve his country.

Ira Hayes, a Gila River, Ariz., native, was born in a one-room adobe hut on an Indian reservation and was a member of the Pima tribe. Hayes enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 19, nine months after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The barely-visible figure in the photo, Rene Gagnon, grew up in Manchester, N.H. Gagnon chose to enlist in the Marine Corps at age 17 after receiving an Army draft notice in the mail.

Mike Strank, a Czechoslovakian immigrant who grew up in Franklin Borough, Penn., en-

listed in the Marine Corps in 1939, and was the only one of the six who joined before the war began.

"But soon the brainy Czech boy would transform himself into a prototype American fighting man: a tough, driven, and consummate leader, advancing without complaint toward what he came to understand was his certain death," said the book.

The six men, from completely different backgrounds united that day for a moment that will forever be remembered as one of the most significant combat documentations and as a reminder to those on the home front of the Marines and sailors serving abroad.

Three of the men were later killed in battle, while the other three survivors "were overtaken and eventually destroyed -- dead of drink and heartbreak," but their actions that day lived on, and according to James Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy, 1945, "The raising of the flag on Suribachi (meant) a Marine Corps for the next 500 years."

The book, "Flags of Our Fathers" is on the Marine Professional reading list for noncommissioned officers because it tells a story about the importance of persistence in battle, troop leadership and it emphasizes the importance of Marines knowing their history.

The book tells a story of thousands of Marines and soldiers, these six included, coming together to fight one of the most vicious battles in American history and maintaining pride and patriotism until the very end. T

The image of these men remains a representation of the courage and honor of all Marines and sailors.

Street Talk

Why is it important for Marines to read books from the Marine Professional Reading list?



"Because in combat when your leader dies, you can take his weapons and ammunition, but you can't take his knowledge and experience." -- Lance Cpl. Rohan Crawley, MALS-13

"It keeps your mind from getting lazy. The stimulation helps your mind grow." -- Cpl. Eric Green, VMA-214



"It gives Marines the chance to better themselves and acquire more knowledge." -- Gunnery Sgt. Nicky Hall, VMA-311



"So you can get a true aspect of the way the Marine Corps used to be and compare it to the way things are now." -- Sgt. John Horn, MAWTS-1



DESERT WARRIOR

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The Desert Warrior is published Thursday of each week by Aerotech News and Review, Inc. at no cost to the government. It complies with publication and printing requirements of the Navy and Marine Corps.

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Chapel Call

Time Budget

Lt. Jennifer Bixby
MWSS-371 Squadron Chaplain

It is common knowledge that many relationship struggles arise over financial issues. There is only so much money to go around. There are plenty of needs and wants, therefore priorities must be negotiated. It's great to see so many folks work towards healthy relationships by learning how to handle finances and to budget effectively.

Money is no doubt an important resource, but there is an even more precious resource: time. There is only so much time to go around ... and there are plenty of needs and wants. Although conflicts over spending time crop up more often for couples I have counseled than conflicts over money, most people are surprised at first by the idea of a "time budget." So, now I offer you the opportunity to go about your use of time in much the same way you would prioritize your use of money.

1) Make a list of the non-negotiable items, such as deployments,

Protestant Services:

Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 11 a.m. worship service. Bible studies available; contact chapel for times.

Catholic Mass:

Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, 9:30 a.m. Mass
Monday through Thursday - 7 a.m. Mass

For more information, visit the chapel at Building 1176 or call 269-2086.

regular work hours, school hours, etc.

2) Make a wish list of what you would like to do for your free-time: weekends, liberty, vacation, even those few moments right when you come home at the end of the work day. For example, as the stay-at-home spouse often wants to talk about everything and the kids want to play, the other spouse wants a few moments alone to decompress and shift gears from workplace to home.

3) Talk about why these activities are important to you. The why is every bit as important as the what (Uncommunicated whys are often the root of disagreements!).

4) Once you understand each other's wishes, come up with your plan of how you will best spend your time to meet the needs of those involved under the current constraints.

Warrant Officer Philip Campitelli, Marine Air Control Squadron 1 radar maintenance officer, races over the station obstacle course double bars Aug. 17 during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program sustainment session. The MACS-1 Marines went through the obstacle course five times to warm up before starting the MCMAP sustainment.



Marines train for several dozen hours to upgrade their Marine Corps Martial Arts Program belts. The brown belt with a brown stripe on it means the Marine wearing it has mastered the previous belt levels and can teach them to other Marines.



Photos by Pfc. M. Daniel Sanchez

Marines are known for their aggressive fighting abilities in combat, and the basic warrior stance is the foundation on which Marines build that aggressiveness and ability. The Marine Corps Martial Arts Program is designed to help Marines prepare for combat by developing their combat fighting skills and strengthening the discipline learned in boot camp.

Marines dust off MCMAP skills with a little practice

Pfc. Jeremy Bilodeau, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron aircraft rescue firefighter, performs a counter to the rear choke on Lance Cpl. William Aden, H&HS weather observer, during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program sustainment class Aug. 17 at Ramada Field here.



Sgt. Joseph Hendrickson, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron weather observer, gets a taste of the side choke during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program sustainment class Aug. 17 at Ramada Field. H&HS has been conducting MCMAP sustainment classes, open to all Marines, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. for the past two months

Pfc. M. Daniel Sanchez
MCAS Yuma

Marines are world-renowned for their fierce fighting spirit, and units here are working to ensure no one forgets that. Marines from across the station are taking Marine Corps Martial Arts Program refresher classes to advance themselves as warriors and leaders in hand-to-hand combat. Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and Marine Air Control Squadron 1 are two of the units on station that recently developed MCMAP sustainment classes to keep Marines combat ready. Gunnery Sgt. Freddy King, Aircraft Rescue Firefighting crash chief, and Sgt. William Branstetter, aircraft rescue firefighter, have been volunteering for the past two months to teach MCMAP sustainment courses for station Marines. Warrant Officer Philip Campitelli, MACS-1 radar maintenance officer, has also been taking time to keep his Marines well versed in the ways of the Marine warrior. MCMAP is a very important element

in developing discipline and moral and physical character that Marines will need when faced with a combat situation, said Branstetter. It is also one heck of a way to work out, said Campitelli. Running three miles is great, but can Marines run through the obstacle course four or five times, then come out and perform the moves when necessary? That's what is expected of Marines -- to push through fatigue and pain and still perform. The courses consist of about 20 minutes of warm-up exercises, running through the station's obstacle course about once a week, and reviewing belt techniques. "I want to see the Marines walk away with an increased sense of pride and a heightened level of confidence in their MCMAP abilities," said Branstetter. Marines are also given the opportunity to upgrade to the next belt level, said Branstetter. As more and more Marines get deployed overseas, it becomes increasingly

more important for Marines to prepare themselves for combat, said Cpl. Daniel Walters, aircraft rescue firefighter. The instructors come out here twice each week and volunteer their time to teach the class, so Marines should take advantage of the opportunity while it's around, said Walters. The H&HS classes are taught Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. at Ramada Field and are offered to all Marines. Campitelli said MACS-1 does not have a set schedule, but he would like to put one together for his Marines at the Cannon Air Defense Complex. The class is for Marines who want to get that edge over their peers and take their combat training to the next level, said Branstetter. The instructors are eager to work with Marines of all belt levels from all over the station. It doesn't matter what squadrons or sections they are part of, if they want to learn, all they have to do is show up.

I want to see the Marines walk away with a heightened level of confidence in their MCMAP abilities.

-- Sgt. William Branstetter



RETURN ... from page 1

from its Marines, he said. But the important thing is that everyone returned home safely to their families and friends.

The Marines showed up in front of the club to the cheers, applause and laughter of the people they temporarily left behind. Even the local media showed up to support the service members and take part in the return celebration.

One of the Marines, Maj. Darry Grossnickle, officer-in-charge of MACS-1 (forward), arrived to find a new member of his family bundled up in a small baby carrier waiting for him.

Grossnickle’s son, Zachary, was born three weeks prior to his return.

“This was the first one that I didn’t get to see born,” said Grossnickle, a native of Laurens, Iowa.

Grossnickle said he was happy to be home and planned to spend some time

with his family to let his children readjust to having him around, especially his new baby son.

Other Marines missed the small things in life, like central air conditioning.

“It hasn’t sunk in yet for me, but it’s just good to be home,” said Master Gunnery Sgt. Richard Williams, senior enlisted advisor to Hale and native of Council Bluffs, Iowa. “It feels good to be back in America. I missed the comforts of home like clean water and air conditioning, the things we take for granted on a daily basis.

“But, for the Marines I went with out there, I’ll tell you that I just love every one of them,” said Williams. “We are just like a big family that has disagreements and fights, but still love each other. They’re just a bunch of great people.”

Williams said it was great to serve with his Marines, but was looking forward to

being with his family.

Williams’ wife, Nancy Williams, said it was difficult when her husband was deployed, but found solace in receiving e-mail messages from him rather frequently.

The most difficult part of him being gone was doing all the jobs around the house he used to take care of, she said. It’s like everything started going wrong as soon as he left. It was a real surprise to find out how much he did for the family, and just goes to show how important he is.

Her statements summed up the feelings of the families and friends who attended the homecoming -- the role of Marines is never ending.

The Marines served their country with the utmost honor and diligence, said Hale.

“Serving with them was nothing shy of an honor,” said Hale.

VMA-214 ... from page 1

would find in our squadron, but on a lower scale. Just about every skill or expertise you find in a squadron, you would find on a boat detachment,” said Blochberger.

VMA-214 and all other squadrons under MAG-13 support the 11th, 13th, and 15th MEUs.

They also support the 31st MEU, which is located in Japan. The Squadrons rotate deployments throughout each MEU, said Sgt. Maj. Derrick Christovale

The Marines went on a standard Western Pacific deployment during the ship’s primary sail. From there, Marines then went to the North Arabian Gulf to do combat missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Marines provided basic and close air support, reconnaissance and convoy escorts to the Marines on the ground.

The Marines’ deployment was routine. They were able to meet or exceed all assigned tasks and return home safely, said Blochberger.

“There’s not much more that I could ask for. To go out and

participate in combat operations and accomplish the mission while bringing all our Marines and aircraft back, really speaks volumes about the men and women of our squadron,” said Blochberger.

“It’s great to have the Marines back. They’re a sight for sore eyes. I actually missed them while they were gone. As a squadron, we missed them not only for their camaraderie, but also for their expertise and the skills and knowledge they bring. We are extremely happy to have them back. And very proud of the job they did,” said Blochberger.

The Marines were able to help show what AV-8B Harriers can do and what the Blacksheep can do.

Most of the Marines will take about 15 days of post-deployment leave. “When the Marines return it will once again be time to get back to what every squadron does, and that’s keeping our aircraft flying and getting ready for the next deployment,” said Blochberger.

Marine Attack Squadron 214 is scheduled to deploy again next year.

MESSHALL ... from page 1

best mess hall of the year in the Marine Corps.

The W.P.T. Hill Award has two categories, said Hall. The full food service category is awarded to mess halls that have all civilian workers. The station mess hall falls under the second category: management and mess attendant category, which has both Marine and civilian workers.

The station mess hall won the W.P.T. Hill Award three years in a row, being

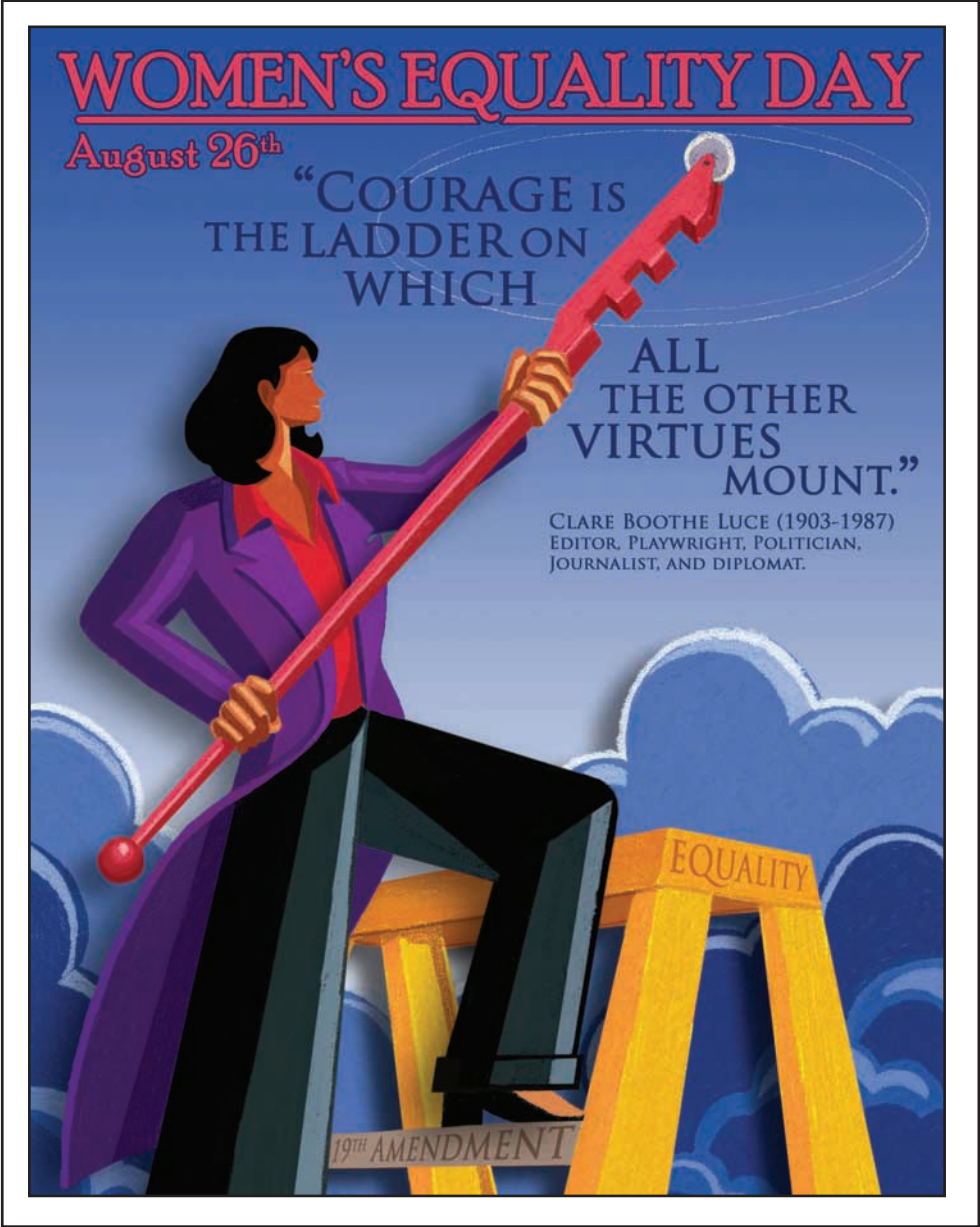
the first ever to win the award three consecutive years. Mess hall staff plan to make it four in a row this year, said James Demaree, project manager from Superior Services. Demaree and Superior Services oversee the civilian development and performance of mess halls from Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command 29 Palms, Camp Pendleton and the station.

If the mess hall is able to get the high-

est rating in the phase one inspection, it will represent the West and go through the second phase of inspection along with the representatives from the East Coast and overseas for the W.P.T. Hill Award, said Oquendo.

The Marines and civilian workers worked hard preparing for this day. Hopefully all goes well, said Hall.

The results of the inspection will be announced next week.



LENDERS ... from page 1

past months with their loans to PDL’s.”

While many times, the society can offer military members loans and grants for emergency assistance, many service members continue to use pay-day lenders, where they are charged excessive interest rates.

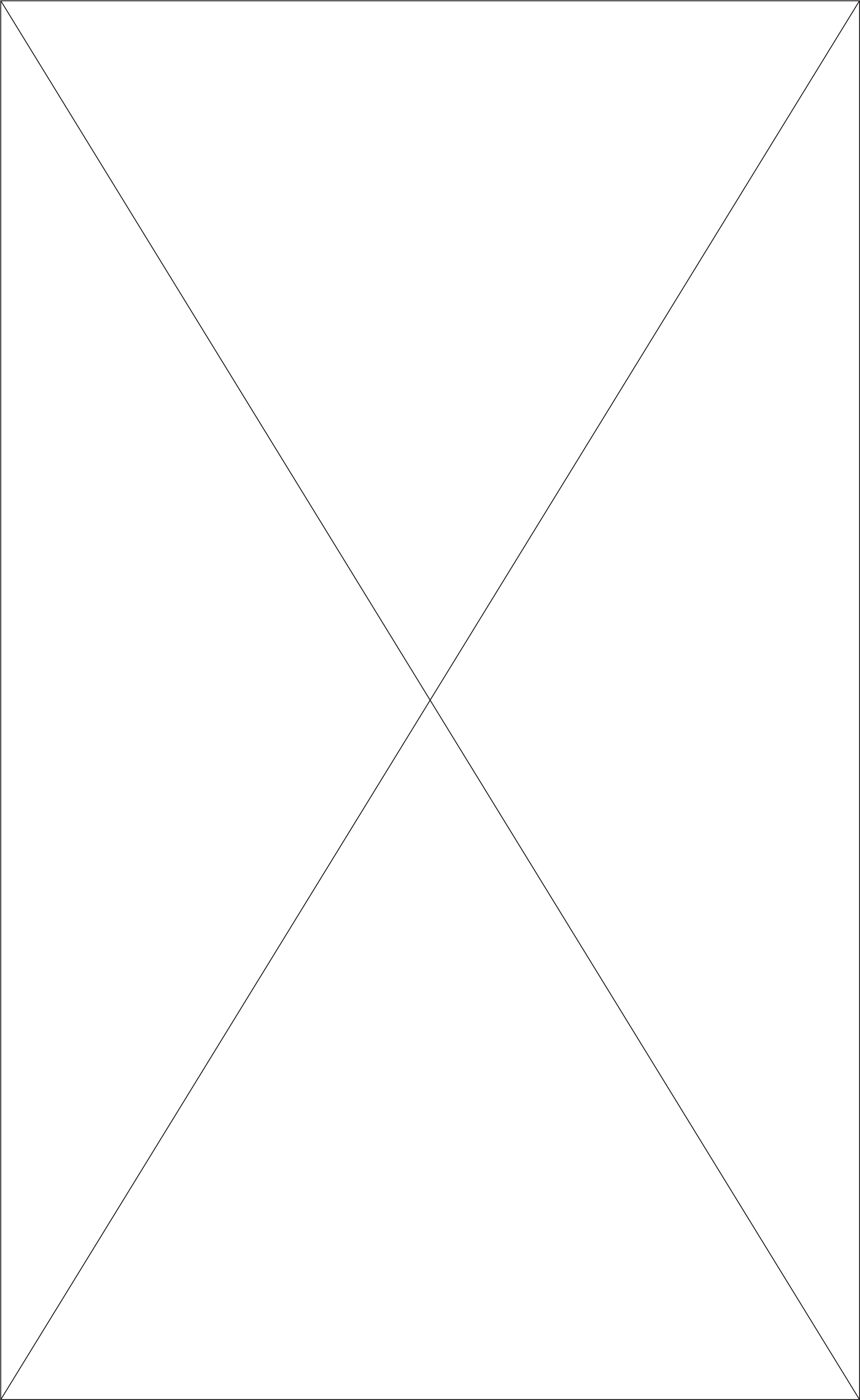
“The problem may be that it might take us up to a couple of hours to assess the need of a service member -- and we ask some tough questions to boot,” said O’Hara. “Whereas, the turn around time in a PDL office is five minutes and the money is in hand. Part of the NMCRS process is education. We do budgets for almost every client to help them understand where they sit financially as well as to determine whether they can afford to repay any loan NMCRS may give them,

or if assistance given must be granted (no repayment). We give good common sense advice and, hopefully, give the client something to think about.”

While receiving the loan or grant is important to clients to take care of their immediate financial problems, the key to preventing future financial troubles is financial education.

The more people that know about the pitfalls of pay-day lending and the assistance offered at NMCRS, the better, said O’Hara. “Our service members should at least try us first, pay-day lenders are still out there if we can’t help and they are determined to get the money no matter what the cost.”

For more information, contact Margy Pracchia at 269-2425.



AT EASE



Photo courtesy of Humane Society of Yuma

Looking for love

Co Coa, a 3-year-old chihuahua mix, loves everyone. This little girl was not picked up by her owners even though they knew she was here with her puppy, Cookie. Co Coa has a lot of love to give and even with a slight handicap on her foot, she hops around with no problem. If you are looking for a loveable lap dog, come meet Co Coa. For more information about adopting Co Coa, call 782-1621.

The Humane Society of Yuma has dozens of dogs and cats in need of good homes. Cost of adoptions include immunizations, spaying or neutering the animal, a free veterinary checkup and 30 days of pet insurance. The society also needs volunteers and donations. They currently need cleaning supplies, bedding, kitty litter, food and monetary donations. For more information about helping the Humane Society of Yuma, call 782-1621.

MCCS Events

Youth Center Events

The youth center will host a birthday bash from 4-5 p.m. and a skate night from 7-10 p.m. Friday. For more information about youth center events, call 269-5390/3659.

Summer Movie Madness

The Video Corner has expanded its DVD, game selection and lowered its prices. To celebrate summer, three-day movie rentals are \$1.50 until Friday. Daily drawings will be held to win a DVD, and a drawing for a 27-inch TV and home theater system will be held Friday. The new pricing system will begin Saturday. For more information about the new pricing system, call 269-5300.

Sale at the MCX

The main exchange will have a Labor Day Sale from Aug. 31-Sept. 4. Save up to 40 percent on select name-brand shoes.

Dove Season

Dove season opens in September. Hunting licenses can be purchased in the sporting goods department at the main exchange. See store for license details.

Resume workshop

A resume writing workshop is scheduled for Wednesday from 8-11:30 a.m. at the Lifelong Learning Center located in Building 850. Participants will learn what employers look for, how to put military experience into civilian language and how to write a resume that will generate an interview. For more information about the program, call 269-3159.

Bosses Night

A staff noncommissioned officer Bosses Night is scheduled for Friday at 3:30 p.m. in the SNCO lounge in the Sonoran Pueblo. For more information, call 269-2711.

LINKS

The Lifestyle Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills program provides spouses the opportunity to make new friends and share their Marine Corps experience with other spouses. The next LINKS session is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday. For more information, call 269-6502.

Marine Corps Community Services' 411 Infoline is available for information on the go. Just dial 269-1411 to receive updated information and contact numbers for MCCS services and events. The line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In Theater

Tonight

7 p.m. The Devil Wears Prada (PG-13)

Friday

6 p.m. Waist Deep (R)

9 p.m. Superman Returns (PG-13)

Saturday

4 p.m. Click (PG-13)

7 p.m. Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (PG-13)

Sunday

5 p.m. Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (PG-13)

Monday

7 p.m. Waist Deep (R)

Tuesday

7 p.m. Superman Returns (PG-13)

Wednesday

7 p.m. Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (PG-13)

Movies are subject to change; call 269-2358 or visit www.yuma.usmc-mccs.org/TheaterSchedules.htm.

News to Use

Great Dads Seminar

The Chaplains Office will sponsor a Great Dads Seminar on Sept. 7 from 1-5 p.m. at the Chapel Fellowship Hall located in Building 1178.

Pastor Charles Zwicker will present the six basics of being a great dad during the seminar. The event is free to all servicemembers, active and retired, and their spouses.

For more information about this event, contact the station chapel at 269-2371 or the MAG-13 Chaplain's Office at 269-3454.

Free USPS packaging

The United States Postal Service is providing military family members and friends with packaging materials to send packages to service members.

To take advantage of this offer, call 1-800-610-8734, select option one, then one again and ask for the "military pack." This pack includes eight boxes, tape, packaging materials and labels, which will be mailed to those who call. They will also provide an identification number to reorder.

Materials take four to 10 days to be delivered.

Dove hunting registration on base

The Range Management Department will register eligible dove hunters for the upcoming season, which will be Sept. 1-15. Interested hunters can register at the Sonoran Pueblo until Friday from 3:30-5 p.m. To be eligible, hunters must be active duty or retired military or MCAS employees, dependents or guests sponsored by eligible members. All active duty and retired service members are authorized to sponsor one guest and must accompany the guest while hunting.

MCAS permit requirements include: valid military/civilian ID card with driver's license, valid hunting license and a hunter safety questionnaire must be passed.

All state and federal laws apply while hunting aboard MCAS. Any questions please contact the range warden at 941-1645 or 269-6097. Additional information will be passed at registration.

Knights of Columbus forming

The station chapel and St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Community are forming a new council of Catholic men devoted to serving God, country and family called the Knights of Columbus.

Chaplain Doug Smith, assisted by national, state and local KoC leaders, will host an informational meeting Sept. 10 at 10:30 a.m. in the station chapel. The meeting is for current and prospective Knights.

For more information, call the chapel at 269-2371.

New law expands IRA options

Members of the military serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and other combat zone localities can now put money into an individual retirement account, even if they received tax-free combat pay, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

Under the Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunities (HERO) Act, signed into law on Memorial Day, taxpayers can now count tax-free combat pay when determining whether they qualify to contribute to either a Roth or traditional IRA. Before this change, members of the military whose earnings came entirely from tax-free combat pay were generally barred from using IRAs to save for retirement.

In addition, the HERO Act allows military personnel who received tax-free combat pay in either 2004 or 2005 to go back and make IRA contributions for those years. Eligible military members will have extra time, until May 28, 2009, to make these special back-year contributions.

Roth IRA contributions are not deductible, but distributions, usually after retirement, are normally tax-free. Income limits and other special rules apply. On the other hand, contributions to a traditional IRA are often, though not always, deductible, and distributions are generally taxable.

For those planning ahead, the IRA contribution limit for 2006 is \$4,000 for those under age 50 and \$5,000 for those 50 and over.

Cultural Music Event

The Yuma Community Theater will host an Art Community Cultural Music Theater Event Oct. 29 from 2-5 p.m. in the Historic Yuma Theater. The event will feature local talent in a live production of a Broadway show.

Tickets cost \$15.

For more information about this event, visit the Web site www.yumacommunitytheater.org or call Frederic Brown at 344-2880.

Montgomery Gentry concert

Montgomery Gentry will perform an outdoor concert Sept. 8 from 7-10 p.m. at Paradise Casinos, located at 450 Quechan Drive in Yuma.

The show is open to those 21 or older. Ticket price is \$45.

For more information call 888-777-4946.

George Carlin at civic center

Legendary comedian George Carlin will perform his stand-up comedy at the Yuma Civic Center on Sept. 19 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now and are \$39.50 for close seats and \$37.50 for general seats. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Yuma Civic Center at 373-5040.

Liberty Call

Tuesday fun and fellowship

Gather for some good clean fun with people of all ages Tuesdays at the Sonoran Pueblo Smith Room/Officer's Lounge from 6:30-9 p.m. Activities may include games, cards, break dancing, comedy improvisation -- whatever mood strikes you. For more information, call Chaplain Bixby at 269-6422.

New Yuma events calendar

The Yuma Visitor's Bureau, Heritage Festivals, the City of Yuma and the Yuma Community Marketing Group have joined forces to create Yuma's first official online events calendar. The site, located at <http://yumacalendar.org>, is the perfect opportunity to discover what events are taking place in Yuma, and it is expected to be a tremendous help for event organizers, according to a City of Yuma press release.

14th annual Jesus Jam

This year's event is scheduled for Friday at 7 p.m. at the Desert Sun Stadium and feature two back-to-back headliners -- "Seventh Day Slumber" and "Thousand Foot Krutch." Tickets are available for the advance price of \$10 or \$8 for groups of 10 or more. Tickets will be \$14 at the gate on the evening of the show. For more information, visit www.KCFYFM.com or call 341-9730.

Yuma Jazz Company

Lutes' Casino in Yuma will host a performance by the Yuma Jazz Company quintet Sept. 1 from 7-9 p.m. Admission is free and welcome to all ages. The quintet will play a wide range of material, ranging from moody blues to lively Latin jazz. For more information, call Lutes' at 782-2192 or visit the Web site www.yumajazz.com.

Craig Morgan at Western Dance

Country artist Craig Morgan will perform at the Western Dance on Oct. 7 at the Yuma County Fairgrounds. Morgan began his music career during his 10 years in the military, which included combat in Operation Just Cause and other deployments.

Tickets are now on sale for the event, which includes a tri-tip barbecue dinner. Tickets are \$50 through Sept. 7; after that it's \$60. A special military discount (with ID) will lower tickets to \$45. Tickets can be bought at the Foundation of Yuma Regional Medical Center Office at 399 W. 32nd St. or at the ITT office on base.

For more information, contact Debbie Stahl, foundation director, at 336-7045.

Broadway musical

The Yuma Community Theater will host the Broadway musical "Nunsense" Oct. 27 from 7-9 p.m. at the Yuma Historic Theater.

The play was written by Dan Goggin. This will be the season's first production. Tickets are \$15.

For more information, contact Claire Slicker, producer, at 305-7490 or visit the Web site www.yumacommunitytheater.org.

ADS

SPORTS

Preseason flag football: MALS-13, PMO strike first with back-to-back victories

Pfc. M. Daniel Sanchez
MCAS Yuma

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 A team and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Provost Marshals Office kicked off intramural flag football with back-to-back victories in the first round of a preseason tournament Aug. 14 at Field 425 here. The MALS-13 Black Widows defeated the Marine Aircraft Group 13 Diggers, 19-7, in game one, and PMO squeaked by Marine Air Control Squadron 1 Air Traffic Control, 7-6, in game two. Each team competed with eight

players at a time on the field, four of which were linemen. The games were played in two 20-minute halves on an 80-yard field, with 20-yard first downs. Play would stop once the ball touched the ground or the player's flags were removed by an opponent.

In game one, MALS-13 scored the game's first touchdown off quarterback Donald Wood's 30-yard touchdown pass in the first half of play.

MALS-13 failed to capitalize on the extra point, and settled for a six-point lead.

The Diggers attempted to answer MALS-13's touchdown with a score of its own, but MALS-13's defense proved too powerful, stop-

ping the Diggers in the red zone.

MALS-13 tried to pick up where it left off on offense, but ran into opposition from an equally aggressive MAG-13 defense.

The Diggers' secondary unit stopped everything Woods could throw at it, frustrating the MALS-13 offense.

On third-and-25, MALS-13 lined up to go for the first-down.

Joseph Simmons, MALS-13 center, snapped the ball to Woods. Woods stepped back, surveyed the field, and gunned it straight into the hands of a Diggler defender who returned it all the way back for a touchdown.

The Diggers made the conversion to end the half with the

lead, 7-6.

So far, the game was pretty close, but it wasn't over yet, said Jerry Garza, Diggers quarterback.

"Defensively, we need to step it up a little and not get ahead of ourselves," said Garza. "We can't let that one-point lead get us. We need to stick to the game plan, making the short, quick passes."

MALS-13 was just getting out the preseason jitters, said Woods. The Marines know what they are supposed to do and are ready to get back in the game.

MAG-13 started the second half on offense and set the tone that would foreshadow the game's end.

The Diggers' quarterback threw an interception in their first possession, giving MALS-13 the opportunity to take the lead.

Woods would throw another touchdown and this time the extra point as well, putting MALS-13 up 13-7.

MAG-13 could not recover from its early second-half mistakes, and MALS-13 would capitalize once again by scoring seven more points to win the game, 19-6.

"We had a couple of little mistakes, but we know we're the team to beat," said Woods. "Once we work out all the kinks, we're going to blow (everybody) out. If we play our game, nobody's going to beat us."

The second game of the night turned out to be a battle of the

defenses.

ATC started the first half on offense, and PMO's strong safety Matthew Lerma set the defensive bar with an interception. However, PMO could not capitalize and was forced to punt the ball back to ATC.

PMO's defense held ATC at bay for the first two downs, but ATC's quarterback Melvin Kirskey would not be held back, throwing the game's first touchdown.

ATC's one-point conversion was no good, only giving them a 6-0 lead.

P M O received the ball with less than two minutes

left in the first half.

The Marines made it as far as midfield but could not score before time ran out.

PMO knew its back was against the wall and if it didn't change strategy its second-half performance would mirror the first.

"We saw what did and didn't work for us and we're just going to move on," said Enrique Rendon, PMO quarterback. "We're going to utilize the short game -- just nickel and dime them to death."

PMO started the second half on offense, ready to score and follow up on Rendon's words.

The PMO quarterback deviated a little bit from his game plan, throwing a 40-yard pass to Tim Layne, wide receiver, for the touchdown to tie the score 6-6.

PMO made the conversion to



Air traffic control quarterback Melvin Kirskey gets sacked by Provost Marshals Office defender Walter McElrath in game two of the first round of the intramural flag football preseason tournament held Aug. 14 at Field 425 here.

take a 7-6 lead.

With less than two minutes in the game, ATC sent all its receivers on deep routes in hopes of making a last-minute comeback.

Kirskey stepped back, on fourth-and-20, and let loose his final hail mary, only to have it intercepted again by Lerma.

"They were coming in too fast," said Kirskey. "We didn't have good push off the line and some of the passes just weren't there."

ATC played hard with a lot of heart and they deserved to win, said Kirskey.

The tournament ended Aug. 16 and the regular season started Aug. 21.

The next Commander's Cup event will be bowling, which is scheduled to begin Monday.



Photos by Pfc. M. Daniel Sanchez

Air traffic control quarterback Melvin Kirksey looks for an open man with Provost Marshals Office defender John Reid hot on his trail in game two of the first round of the intramural flag football preseason tournament held Aug. 14 at Field 425 here. ATC played a good game but barely lost to PMO, 6-7.